# Assessing cost-effective interventions to reduce the burden of harm associated with alcohol misuse in Australia

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## Summary

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the cost-effectiveness of interventions designed to reduce the burden of harm associated with alcohol misuse in Australia.

A number of strategies are available to minimise the harm associated with alcohol misuse and considerable research has been conducted on whether various interventions for problem drinkers work; but policy makers also require additional information on the efficiency of interventions, including an assessment of both costs and consequences.

## Outcomes

This study concludes that the most cost effective interventions include, in order, changing the volumetric taxation of alcohol; advertising bans; and increasing the minimum legal drinking age from 18 to 21 years. The least cost-effective interventions studied include, in order, residential treatments and naltrexone; random breath testing; drink driving mass media campaigns; and increased licensing controls.

The results provide policy makers with clear evidence on the cost-effectiveness of interventions to curb alcohol misuse. By re-allocating existing resources committed to reducing alcohol-related harm, policy makers could achieve over ten times the health gain for the same level of investment.

## References

Doran, C, Vos, T, Cobiac, L, Hall, W, Asamoah, I, Wallace, A, Naidoo, S, Byrnes, J, Fowler, G & Arnett, K 2008 Identifying cost-effective interventions to reduce the burden of harm associated with alcohol misuse in Australia. Brisbane: University of Queensland.

[view the report](/wp-content/uploads/Identifying-Cost-effective-Interventions-to-Reduce-the-Burden-of-Alcohol-Harm.pdf)